

Application No: 09/876,515
Attorney's Docket No: GB 000109

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated October 19, 2005.

REQUEST FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CLAIM OF PRIORITY

The subject application was filed June 7, 2001 and claimed priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of GB 0015454.2 (filed June 26, 2000) and GB 0020073.3 (filed August 15, 2000) by way of the originally filed Declaration. 37 C.F.R. § 1.55; M.P.E.P. § 201.13. Certified copies of both GB applications were originally filed with the subject application and are listed on the Official Filing Receipt.

The undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for priority by checking the appropriate boxes on the next Office Action Summary page.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shteyn et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,782,253 in view of Evan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,311,060.

Shteyn et al. was published on August 24, 2004 and was filed on August 10, 2000. Shteyn et al. does not claim priority from any other application. Accordingly, Shteyn et al. is a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as of its associated U.S. filing date of August 10, 2000.

The subject application properly claims priority from two British Applications, GB 0015454.2 (filed June 26, 2000) and GB 0020073.3 (filed August 15, 2000). Both applications set forth identical inventors.

The undersigned submits herewith two properly executed Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to establish a date of invention *at least* as of June 26, 2000, thereby antedating the Shteyn et al. reference. See M.P.E.P. § 715. Both Declarations properly set forth prior invention in a WTO country other than the United States on or after January 1, 1996.

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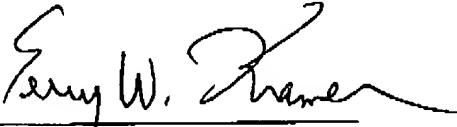
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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